

Politics-1927

West Virginia

Women in.

WEST VIRGINIA HAS THE ONLY COUNCILWOMAN

Report Of State Welfare Bu-
reau Shows 6 Councilmen
And Five Postmasters

**TWO THIRDS OF MEN
WORK IN THE MINES**

Report Shows Only 715 Far-
mers. Says State Should
Take Over Storer

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—
Mrs. Wm. Drewery of
Clark is the only city coun-
cilwoman of the state and
perhaps of the U. S.

Spotlight is thrown on Mrs. Drewery in a survey covering all phases of Negro life just issued by the Bureau of Negro welfare and statistics.

The same report also shows that there are six councilmen and five postmasters in various sections of the state. Among the postmasters are A. C. Spurlock, Lakin; J. W. Armstead, Wolfe; Mrs. Rosea Harper Brown, Institute; Mrs. Carrie B. Crichlow, Denmar and Mrs. Jessie Hill Mitchell, Watoga.

5-14-27
Office Holders

Some idea of the manner in which this state distributes its municipal and state offices among the race group is shown by the report which lists three justices of the peace, three deputy sheriffs, four constables and six policemen and patrolmen.

There are 38 employees attached to the State Executive Department including a director of the Bureau of Welfare and Statistics and one member, E. Howard Harper, in the House of Delegates.

23,900 In Mines

Two-thirds of men over sixteen are engaged in mining. In 1925, 23,990 colored men were thus employed. The steady increase of Negro miners employed in the state in practically all of the counties where coal is mined in commercial quantities over the period of the last 19

years, is said to show the efficiency and the competency of colored miners and their value and importance in this great industry.

That farming, however, is not an inconsiderate means of livelihood is shown by the fact that of the 715 farms operated by the group 304 are owned by them. In the professions are listed 62 physicians, 31 dentists, 11 pharmacists, 2 chiropractors, 25 lawyers and 14 registered nurses.

Physicians Needed

The report also calls attention to the fact that more physicians are needed in the state. At least 100 more could find lucrative fields, especially in Charleston, Wheeling and Bluefield. Need for more lawyers pharmacists and nurses is shown by the report.

The total population of Negroes throughout the state is 78,000. During the last twelve years there was an increase of 12,000. In Bluefield they own 82.11 per cent of the homes they occupy; in Huntington 60 per cent while in Clarksburg and Charleston they own 54.7 and 45.8 per cent respectively.

Business activities cover a wide range and the four large insurance companies operating throughout the country carry approximately \$4,000,000 of insurance on 11,000 people.

Need Educated Ministers

One of the great needs as the present time, as pointed out by this report is for educated ministers. Of the more than 400 ministers in the state less than 50 have had two years or more of standard college work and less than 100 have had schooling equivalent to a standard high school course.

While a majority of the ministers in the state are earnest conscientious men, and are serving the spiritual needs of the people, only a very few of them have any well thought out programs for social welfare, community betterment or children's and youth's improvement. With the few men being properly prepared for the ministry, the report says, there is very little hope for improvement in this condition in the near future. The problem seems to be one which must be met and solved by the adherents of the local churches and, in this connection the young people who are coming out of high schools and colleges and taking up activities in church communities may greatly aid in the solution by entering into religious work and in creating a healthy sentiment which will result in driving out of the churches the ignorant, immoral, vicious and venal preachers who are hindrances to the cause of religion and the progress of the race."

Seven Hospitals

There are seven Negro hospitals in W. Va.

Storer College

The report recommends that the State take over the maintenance and further development of Storer College as a measure of educational expansion and because of the growing financial needs of that institution.

A weakness pointed out in the educational system is the lack of coordinating trade classes in the

schools. Notwithstanding the fact that two thirds of the people are employed in mines there are no schools teaching any trade allied to this industry, while white students are taught all branches of this highly important industry.

Unions And Mining

Considerable discussion in the report is given to the question of the relation of Negroes to coal mining. Since 1921 the mine owners have employed a policy of employing a larger number of colored than white in the mines. This policy followed the attitude race miners took towards the strike of that year. Because of discrimination on the part of the unions a large number of colored men volunteered to defend Logan County against the armed marchers of the United Mine Workers.

Although in the past work has been irregular and the migration from the South increased the number in excess of the demand, since 1925 the work has been regular throughout the state and Negro miners have been in constant demand